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Amendments to Claims

Please amend the claims as indicated in the listing below, which listing supercedes and replaces all prior listings of claims:

1. (Original) A method comprising

displaying information about proposed markdowns of retail prices for items of commerce, the proposed markdowns being based on a predefined objective function and on a predefined automatic analysis,

enabling the user to cause changes in the automatic analysis, and

displaying to the user information about an impact of the changes on metrics associated with the items.

2. (Original) The method of claim 1 in which the metrics comprise sales dollars, gross profit, or time when out of stock will occur.

3. (Original) The method of claim 1 in which the changes in the automatic analysis include specifying a markdown price in place of a markdown price determined by the automatic analysis.

4. (Original) The method of claim 1 in which the changes in the automatic analysis include rejecting at least one of the proposed markdowns.

5. (Original) The method of claim 1 in which the information displayed about proposed markdowns includes the amounts of the markdowns.

6. (Original) The method of claim 1 in which the information displayed about proposed markdowns includes the costs of the markdowns.

7. (Original) The method of claim 1 in which the user can control the status of the displaying of the markdowns to permit interaction with the displayed information prior to committing to executing markdowns.

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8. (Original) The method of claim 1 in which the information about proposed markdowns includes composite information about the total impact of the markdowns.
9. (Original) The method of claim 1 in which the information about proposed markdowns is displayed at a level selected by the user.
10. (Original) The method of claim 9 in which the level comprises individual items, or items that belong to a style, or subdivisions or division of a commercial operation.
11. (Original) The method of claim 1 in which the changes in the automatic analysis comprise changes in the objective function or in rules that govern the analysis.
12. (Original) The method of claim 1 in which the objective function comprises optimizing gross margin dollars while targeting 100% sell-through by an out-of-stock date.
13. (Original) The method of claim 1 in which the information about proposed markdowns comprises a forecast of financial outcomes by time period with respect to one or more of the items of commerce.
14. (Original) The method of claim 13 in which the financial outcomes include sales, inventory, or margin.
15. (Original) The method of claim 1 in which the information about proposed markdowns comprises a what-if analysis that predicts financial outcomes based on user indicated markdowns in a succession of time periods.
16. (Original) The method of claim 15 in which the financial outcomes include sales, inventory, or margin.

Claim 17 (cancelled).

18. (Newly Added) A method comprising

- A. displaying information about proposed markdowns of retail prices for items of commerce, the displaying step including

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executing a model that proposes markdown prices for each of said items or groups of said items,

generating a display which (i) identifies a said item or group of said items and (ii) shows markdown information therefor, the markdown information including a markdown price proposed by the model for such item or group of items and including and a financial impact of the markdown price,

- B. enabling a user to effect changes in the displayed information, the enabling step including enabling the user to propose a different markdown price for an item or group of items than one proposed therefor by the model,
- C. enabling the user to to select or reject a markdown price proposed by the model for one or more of said items or groups of items in the display, and
- D. displaying information about the financial impact of the markdown prices for the items or groups of items proposed by the model in step (A), as changed by the user in step (B), and selected by the user or rejected in step (C).